

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A back light device for liquid crystal displays, comprising:

5       a fluorescent lamp;

          an inverter to supply an alternating current or a pulse to the fluorescent lamp;

          a reflection member to reflect light radiated from the fluorescent lamp;

10       a diffusion member to diffuse the light;

          a frame to house the fluorescent lamp, the inverter, the reflection member and the diffusion member therein;

          an external electrode provided at a first end of the fluorescent lamp;

15       an internal electrode provided at a second end of the fluorescent lamp; and

          an extension electrode connected to the internal electrode, so that a plurality of fluorescent lamps are operated by the single inverter.

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2. The back light device according to claim 1, further comprising:

          a holding terminal provided at a predetermined position in the frame to hold each of the first and second ends of the 25 fluorescent lamp, and connect the external electrode to the

extension electrode.